

ABS Staff Changes

After a national recruitment, Dr. Jo Buyske, previously Chief of Surgery at Presbyterian Hospital and a Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the staff of the ABS in January 2008 as Associate Executive Director and Director of Evaluation, and assumed full responsibility for this position July 1, replacing Dr. Robert Rhodes.

Curriculum Project and SCORE

The Surgical Council on Resident Education, under the direction of Dr. Dick Bell, and the General Surgery Residents Committee (GSRC), under Dr. Stan Ashley, continued to actively move forward with the further development of multiple aspects of the curriculum project. The scope of the diseases and operations to be included in the curriculum was finalized in late 2007 and early 2008, and presently the goals, objectives, and testing material for the first 117 modules within this curriculum are under development with volunteers from the GSRC and APDS. This will ultimately result in a standard surgical curriculum for all surgical trainees

A beta version of SCORE is due to go online in September 2008, which will be used as source material for resident education, and will be presented within the context of the curriculum developed by the GSRC.

Maintenance of Certification

The other major project on which the ABS staff is focusing is the further development of MOC, and in particular the specifics of Part IV – assessment of performance in practice. Most of the measures which have been publicized by external groups relative to medical quality have focused on processes of care. These are germane to primary and ambulatory care, but have a less relevant role in assessing surgical performance, where outcomes are more important. As a result, the ABS has been focusing on ways in which surgical outcomes can become more central to the assessment of MOC Part IV, and is actively working with the American College of Surgeons in the development of its Case Logging System and Web Portal for Fellows. Dr. John Birkmeyer and Dr. Clifford Ko are working with Dr. Barbara Bass and the NSQIP Committee of the ACS, to evaluate new and innovative ways of logging surgical procedure outcomes which may be used in satisfying the requirements of Part IV. In addition, Dr. Frank Opelka and the Surgical Quality Alliance (SQA), with representation from the ACS and most of the surgical specialty societies, is actively exploring the development of a registry which would satisfy most of the outcome measures needed to define surgical quality, as well as other information relative to surgical performance. The Board is actively participating in all of these efforts and anticipates that the requirements of Part IV will continuously evolve in the next few years as improved measures become available.